

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Trials, “*Peirasmos*” Putting to the proof our fidelity, integrity.

Without a proper focus we can

- **try to do too much**, causing stress, conflict, and confusion
- **lack direction** and have a **limited impact** in the world around us
- **sap us of our energy** to even try

With the right focus

- **God can and will use my trial** for **his eternal purposes**.

Isaiah 26:3-4 *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. ⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.*

Steadfastness, “*Camak*,” lean upon, to rest in.

Trust, “*Batach*” to find their confidence in God

Jehovah Shalom, The God of all peace.

Ei Olam, The Eternal One, The Everlasting God.

Jehovah Jireh, “the LORD will provide.”

Hebrews 11:11 *And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.*

James 4:14 *Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.*

Proverbs 4:20-23 *My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. ²¹ Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; ²² for they are life to those who find them and health to one’s whole body. ²³ Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

Psalms 78:4 *We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.*

Matthew 6:20-21 *But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Psalms 145:4 *One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.*

Psalms 145:8-13 The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. ⁹The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. ¹⁰All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you. ¹¹They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, ¹²so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

James 4:8 “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.”

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.